

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on March 17, 2021, I was unable to vote for H.R. 1651, the COVID-19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1651.

### CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF ROMANI AMERICANS

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, this body has long recognized the accomplishments, unique heritage, and rich diversity of cultures that make up the United States.

Roma have been part of every wave of European migration to the United States from the colonial period to the present day, coming from every part of Europe. There may be as many as a million Americans with some Romani ancestry, whether distant or more recent. Roma enrich the fabric of our nation, tie our country to Europe, and build the transatlantic bond.

Few cultures are as geographically diverse as the Romani people. Romani people trace their ancestry to the Indian subcontinent and settled throughout Europe roughly a thousand years ago. In some places, Roma were subject to expulsion or arrest solely because of their ethnicity. In the Wallachian and Moldovan principalities, Roma were enslaved by the crown, nobility, and monasteries until the founding of modern Romania. Sometimes Roma were subjected to forced assimilation.

Roma were among the many groups of people that suffered at the hands of the Nazis and their allies during World War II. At least 23,000 Roma were brought to Auschwitz; almost all of them perished in the gas chambers or from starvation, exhaustion, or disease. Some Roma also died at the hands of sadistic SS doctors, like Joseph Mengele, who performed inhumane medical experiments on Roma. Approximately 25,000 Roma were deported en masse from Romania to Transnistria by the Antonescu regime in 1942; at least 11,000 of them perished. The Romani collective farms in German-occupied Soviet territory became Romani mass grave sites. It is estimated that between 200,000 to 500,000 Romani people were killed in death camps and elsewhere throughout Europe.

As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have supported efforts to acknowledge this tragic past, including by ensuring that survivors and historians have access to relevant archives like those from Bad Arolsen and Lety.

I've also ensured that Romani voices have been heard in the Commission's work to advance safe, equitable, and inclusive societies. I welcome the groundbreaking collaboration by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard and the Voice of Roma to collect qualitative and quantitative data about the lived realities and challenges faced by American Roma.

Today I am re-introducing a resolution recognizing and celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans.

This resolution does four things. First, it celebrates Romani American Heritage. Second, it supports International Roma Day and the Department of State's robust engagement in related activities. April 8 marks "International Roma Day" around the world and is a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people. Third, it commemorates the destruction of the "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz. Fourth, it commends the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for its critically important role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating about the genocide of Roma.

Through this resolution, we celebrate our shared history and applaud the efforts to promote transnational cooperation among Roma at the historic First World Romani Congress on April 8, 1971.

I ask that you join me and cosponsor Chairman GREGORY MEEKS in supporting the resolution.

### CONGRATULATING THE FALCONS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

#### HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hustisford Falcons High School boys' basketball team for their record breaking and historic win at the Division 5 state championship earlier this month.

The Falcons convincingly delivered the program's first-ever state championship title. They kicked it off with a 26-5 run over the game's opening 13 minutes and cruised to a 69-35 victory at the final buzzer. When all was said and done, the Falcons finished the game with 11 blocks against the Macks, setting a new record, and finished the entire tournament with 15 blocked shots, breaking yet another state tournament record. This is a game that is sure to go down in the program's history books, each player should be very proud of themselves.

Hustisford is my very own alma mater and I'm proud of these young men on their victory. I applaud Coach Hopfinger and the entire team for bringing home the first-ever gold ball to add to the school's trophy case. This team has overcome many obstacles in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, but they persevered and brought home impressive hardware to

show for it. Congratulations to the Falcons for their hard work all season. This achievement is well deserved.

### RECOGNIZING THE FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

#### HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, celebrate, and honor the frontline healthcare workers of the great state of South Dakota.

Some of these South Dakota heroes are: Codi Jean Ackerman, Marie Adams, Larin Michelle Albertson, Savannah Allen, Shiann Jo Allen, Christina Marie Allery, Candace Alvarado, Amber Marie Andersen, Stephanie Ashley Anderson, Laryssa Jean Anderson, Christina Lee Anderson, Angela Marie Andre-Lyle, Hannah Kathleen Annetta Andreae, Tara Rae Andrews, Terri L. Andrews, Donna Kay Appletoft, Erica Marie Arends, Megan Rose Armfield, Shawna Nichol Augustine, Teresa Ann Austin, Rachel Ivy Aydelotte, Karla May Bailey, Jackie Ann Bair, Taylor Marie Baker, Noelle Page Bakley, Brooke Erin Baldwin, Naomi Banks, Brena Kay Banks, Stacey Bannwarth, Kassi Raquel Barington-Steele, Deborah Kay Barnard, Tara Ann Barrick, Miranda Marie Barta, Nicole Barthel, Dena Kay Barton, Kimberly Jo Barton, Robin Elaine Bass, Arlene Batin, Melissa Baumgartner, Kaylee R. Baustian, Marissa Paige Beck, Theresa Beck, Stacie R. Becker, Tara Lee Beckmann, Amy Beek, Ashley Lauren Behl, Vicki Lynn Behrens, Maggie Bell, Jenica Lynn Bender, Erica Rose Bender, Megan Louise Bennett, Kelcey Colene Benson, Mary Margaret Benson, Sarah Jeanne Bening, Tara Leigh Berg, Lydia Michelle Best, Julie Bickett, Lori Ann Bies, Joan Marie Biever, Mary Lynn Blegen, Michele Block, Renae Esther Blume.

Chimere Lanee Black, Sandra Caryl Bohr, Danielle Janae Boluyt, Lindsay Boomsma, Amber Lee Bootsma, Rachelle Bosma, Jessica Leigh Bowar, Rebecca Bracha, Carissa Kelli Brandt, Ashleigh JeAnne Brandt, Kristina Breske, Evelyn Briest, Autumn Grace Brockevolt, Bryan Bronson, Jessica Erin Brown, Natasha Yvonne Broz, Haley Cheyenne Bruske, Kellie Anne Bryant, Kara Lynn Buettgenback, Susan Burckhartzmeyer, Sharon K. Buseman, Courtney Amanda Callejas, Jamie Lynn Carlson, Darla Ann Carlson, Samantha Michelle Carlson, Brenda Rae Carrillo, Debra D. Carter, Jennifer Jo Centineo, Katlyn Marie Chaloupka, Jamie Lynn Cheng, Mia Marie Cherry, Joseph Blake Child, Gaelle Albane Chleborad, Kimberly Kay Christensen, Roxanne Clausen, Cassie Lynn Clausen, Cathleen Patricia Climis, Stephanie Renae Coats, Sarah Elizabeth Cole, Lisa Dawn Conklin, Wendy Dawn Connell, Nicole Anne Conrad, Kelsey Ranae Cordell, Ann

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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Marie Cornella, Lindsey Marie Cottrell, Paul Joseph Courteau, Gene Cody Crawford, Brittany Ann Crocker, Dionna Lynn Crofts, Cassie Ann Crowser, Laura Lee Curtis, Susan Dahl.

Shannon Dahmen, Kayla Marie Dammer, Gayle Elizabeth Dargatz, Hope Dargatz, Julie Dashay, Joanne Lee Davis, Elana Anne Marie Deboer, Ashley Michelle Decker, Ashton Mae Delbridge, Randi Marie Delbridge, Kathy Den Otter, Aida Denislic, Pywe Der, Krista Derby, Jill Nicole Devries, Jeri Gayle Dieters, Cassandra Jo Dominguez, Alexis Dominguez, Connie Marie Dorris, Brittany Ann Dumdei, Karol Ann Dumdei, Stephanie Lynn Durston, Kari Ann Durward, Hailey Leona Dutenhoffer, Ashley A. Dysthe, Gena Elizabeth Eagle, Shanda Rene Ebright, Candy May Egan, Alyssa Claire Ehlebracht, Nicole Ann Eichacker, Stacy Jane Eichhorn, Carolyn Eisenbeisz, Jana L Ekeren, Susannah Janet Elverud, Lindsey Alysa Emly, Kristen Fahey, Kayla Lynn Farlee, Mandy Jo Farris, Alexandria Avery Farthing, Emily Elsie Faulk, Patricia Feldhus, Jennifer Kay Fenwick, Julie Jean Ferris, Sarah Fideler, Miriah Larae Fincher, Lindsay Rae Finer, Kathryn Joan Fisk-Stricker, Kammi Jo Flemming, Ogliglewin Angel Flying Hawk, Michaela Lynn Flynn, Elizabeth Ann Folkerts, Mikayla Mae Forsting, Amber Lee Fortin, Shari Delores Foster, Janna Renee Foxhoven, Morgan Jane Framstad, Laquasha Ann Franklin, Angela Fuhrer, Kasey Jo Gabler, Katie Rae Gaffer, Jennifer Marie Ganske, Otto Rene Garcia, Sierra Diane Gartner, Katelynn Nicole Gehm, Tina Marie Gehrke, Heidi Jean Gehrke, Jamie L. Genovese, Renee Lea Gerbracht, Annamaria Lynn Geveshausen, Maggie Anna Giese, Polly Jean Gill, MA, Stacey Marie Gilmer, Amanda Sue Glaser, Valerie Jayne Gleason, Sina Marie Glover, Heidi Jo Goldammer, Emma Melisa Gomez, Kassidy Nicole Beach Graber, Brooke Venaye Graczyk, Paula Meraz Grajeda, Mary Beth Grewing, Jeffrey Joseph Grillo, Blair Shalayne Gross, Christine Grosz, Dena Helen Grotewold, Emma Lynn Kessel Grover, Kayla Mae Gukeisen, Lori Gunn, Angela Crystal Guy, Kristen Beth Haar, Taylor Kae Haas, Tasha Hagman, Kathleen Hahn, Christine Marie Haigh, Alyssa Shantel Halseide, Nicole Diane Hamersma, Ann M. Hamilton, Traci Renae Handke, Nina Renee Hanna, Kayleen P. Hansen, Lori Beth Hansen, Tara Ann Hansen, Jill Hanson.

Laurie J. Hanson, Kara Jean Harris, Jessie Kayleen Harris, Renae Lynn Hartsook, Elizabeth Mae Haug, Sara Corine Haugen, Tami Lee Hawkins, Mary Victoria Hayes, Javan Elizabeth Heath, Shayla Diann Hebb, Tracy Lee Heck, Shaina Cintya Hedeem, Suzanne M. Hefflin, Linda R. Heilman, Nicole Marie Hein, Lexi Marie Heinz, Elizabeth Heinzmann, Sheila Kaye Heitman, Hailee Marie Henderson, Mikia Marie Henson, Jaycee Rae Herman, Leighah Faye Hertel, Madysen Marie Hilbrands, Caitlin Erin Hild, Mary Hohn, Theresa Marie Holmquist, Sandra Denise Hoogendoorn, Susan R. Hookie, Kayla Nicole Hooth, Jacquelyn Sue Hopkins, Cheryl Horsley, Heather Hubbard, Kaitlyn Tress Ilse, Julie Lyn Isaak, Deborah Ann Jackson, Sydney Ann Jandahl, Stephanie Janshen, LeeAnn Janssen, Rosemary Kay Jensen, Kelly Rae Jensen, Ashley Nicole Jensen, McKayla Lee Jensen, Taylor Jenevieve Jessen, Mary Jessen, Melissa Marie Jimenez Soto, Samantha Ann Johnson, Carol Juhnke, Rachel Kaczor, Keisha Marie Kahler, Dana Marie

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Amy Marie Koeppe, Melissa Koester, Angela Kolb, Amy Marie Koll, Kelly Ann Konda, Brooke Ann Kopfmann, Kelly Renae Kounkel, Amanda Kerubo Kramer, Traci Kramer, Lacy Marie Kreachbaum, Melanie Marie Kreitlow, Danielle Kristin Kuehl, Tracy Frances Kueter, Kelsey Marie Kurtenbach, Wendy Lou Kurtz, Britney Jean Lacroix, Teresa Laleman, Brittany Renae Larson, Cody Lane Larson, Nicole Marie Lassle, Lisa Lawrence, Jessica Marie Lawson, Heather Sarah Lee, Michelle Renee Lehans-Kruger, Kelsie Lee Letcher, Monica Rae Likness, Cara Lynn Lingad, Crystal Lingemann, Rochelle Marie Little, Diamond Dominique Little, Rita Lee Little Thunder, Suzanne A Littler, Devin Dani Livermont, Brenda Locke, Pam Locken, Kimberlie C. Lofano, Amanda Ann Lowinske, Rachel Renee Ludemann, Lori Kay Ludolph, Alisia Jo Ludwig, Katie Lundy, Karen Lee Mack, Kelsey Ann Maeschen, Adela J. Maher, Rebecca L. Malsam, Andrea Nicole Malters, Carla J. Marken, Amanda Beth Marquardt, Karina Hellssy Marquez, Elizabeth Dawn Lee Marrufo, Halie Nicole Martchinske, Meghan Marie Martell, Kimberly Ann Martines, Stephanie Sheryl Martinez, Alyssa Martz, Joni Marie Mathis, Rachel Anne Matthews, Erica Azucena Maya, Artee Bea McCaskill, Susan E. McClure, Amanda Susette McGovern, Amy S. McGovern, Jennifer Elizabeth McKee, Mackayla Lynn McKinney, Erica Lynn McVay, Justice Erica Mehlhaff, Carla Meints, Diane Gail Meland, Holly Mentele, Kayla Jo Mentele, Donna Merkel, Ashley Lynn Merkel.

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Payton Reynolds, Miranda Reynolds-Snodgrass, Sidney Rhinehart, Karrie Richards, Cozette Richardson, Jennifer Riddley, Stephanie Rieck, Katie Riely, Cassidy Riggs, Jennifer Rikala, Cara Riker, Nicole Rima, Marisol Rios, Linda Rishovd, Keather Risken, Julie Roach, Nicole Roach, Kate Roberts, Paulena Robinette, Kimberly Robinson, Jean Rodell, Tania Rodriguez, Jacqueline Roe, Taylor Roemen, Kristin Rogers, Sara Reann Rogers, Paige Rogge, Amber Roggenkamp, Samantha Rokusek, Kerri Rollag, Angel Rollag, Sandra Rolston, Alicia Roman, Chantel Rome, Tracy Ranke, Melanie Rosa, Giselle Rosado Rivera, Jo Rose, Kathryn Roselles, Angela Rosemore, Sherry Rosenau, Anna Rosencranz, Caylor Rosenlund, Barbara Ross, Connie Rossow, Lyla Roth, Tracie Roth, Julie Rothschild, Karmen Roti, Ann Roubideaux, Jessica Rowley, Reagan Rozell, Connie Rum1, Melody Running, Wallace Running Eagle, Christina Runs Against, Whitney Runs Against, Bailey Rupp, June Ruppelt, Melanie Rusche, Maddie Rusche, Megan Rush, Ashly Russell, Amanda Russell, Sarah Russell, Jennifer Rutledge, Jacqueline Ryerse, Ethan Saboe, Lorinne Sachau, Miranda Saffel, Kate Saknikent, Haley Salberg, Alicia Salguero, Emily Salguero, Cortney Salmonson, Janine Salverson, Treva Sammons, Jessica Sanchez, Kittina Sandall, Christopher Sanderson, Angela Sanderson, Jennifer Sanderson, Jody Sandine, Shellee Sandmeier, Bonny Sandvik, Geneva Saner, Carolyn Sanford, Katie Sangster, Norma Santema, Jennifer Santos, Sarah Sarff, Danielle Sauer, Roseanna Sawtell, Theresa Saydee, Mary Sayler, Kelsey Saylor, April Schaefer, Michelle Schaeffer, Jennifer Schaeffer, Sara Schaller, Jennifer Schauanaman, Ashley Scheessele, Joan Schell, Amber Schell, Gary Schepel, Karen Scherff, Amanda Scheutzwow, Janette Schiager, Karolyn Schildhauer, Joann Schladweiler, Sarah Schlaht.

Robin Schlechter, Rhonda Schleich, Cindy Schlueter, Cheryl Schmidt, Joann Schmidt, Mary Schmidt, Deborah Schmidt, Bobbie Schmidt, Brittany Schmitt, Paula Schmitz, Chelsea Schmoll, Cassandra Schnathorst, Alyssa Schneider, Cassandra Schneider, Cathy Schneider, Leslie Schneider, Kathy

Schnell, Wendy Schneider, Caitlin Schoenfelder, Donna Scholten, Tegan Schooler, Regan Schoon, Krystal Schreiber, Laura Schuchardt, Elaine Schuldt, Bonnie Schulte, Tiffany Schulte, Julie Schultz, Justice Schultz, Janet Schurman, Karen Schuyler, Brandy Schwab, Melissa Schwan, Clay Schweitzer, Bernice Scott, Jill Scott, Kashmir Scott, Tammy Scott, Laura Scott, Neva Scoular, Tonya Sears, Jessica Sechser, Cassidy Segich, Chelsey Sehr, Joyce Selland, Marcella Semmler, Allison Senior, Amanda Serck, Jeffrey Severson, Beverly Sexton, Jane Sexton, Pamela Seyer, Danielle Sharp, Becky Shatter, Alexis Shenk, Michael Shepperd, Matthew Sherry, Amanda Sherwood, Tracey Shilman, Patty Shinabarger, Mary Shoemaker, Renae Shoemaker, Justin Shoop, Madison Shorb, Mary Shoun, Lorna Shull, Kayla Shumaker, Caitlin Siegel, Mary Sieh, Marcia Siemonsma, Kellie Sigdestad, Patty Siglin, Hannah Sikkink, Debb Sime, Kobe Simmons, Marcia Simon, Abigail Simon, Elizabeth Simonsen, Ruth Sinkgraven, Nicole Sinkie, Tyra Sinkie, Jill Sisson, Sarah Sjomeling, Jeannie Skillman, Donna Skinner, Julie Skogen, Carissa Skogstad, Brandee Skroch, Clarissa Skyberg, Darla Slack, Alexandria Slagle.

Noah Slettum, Nicole Slevin, Linda Slowey, Michael Slowey, Lacey Small, Echo Smit, Carol Smith, Betty Smith, Janet Smith, Diane Smith, Lisha Smith, Michelle Smith, Elizabeth Smith, Sarah Smith, Ashley Smith, Shari Smith, Makenzie Smith, Roxann Snyder, Abby Snyder, Desirae Snyder, Jaya Snyders, Kristina Sokol, Larissa Sokolosky, Holly Solem, Cassie Sommerland, Kalina Sommerstedt, Sophia Sommervold, Hannah Soukup, Savannah Sowards, Sharon Spaniol, Janet Spearman, Genevieve Spears, Chastity Spiry, Brenda Splett, Kelsie Spotsanske, Starla Spotted Horse, Mary St Pierre, Erika Stack, Erica Stafford, Emily Stafford, Penny Stahl, Laura Stahl, Penny Stands, Diane Stangohr, Patricia Starkey, Elizabeth Stearns, Geraldine Steckelberg, Kalissa Steffen, Laura Steichen, Brenda Steiger, Lyndsey Stekl, Isabella Stelzle, Bonnie Stephens, Michelle Stephens, Janice Stepp, Lynda Stern, Charlene Sterner, Amy Stevens, Susan Stewart, Haley Stewart, Christie Stewart, Rhonda Stewart, Debra Stofferahn, Tami Stokes, LaToya Stokes, Kelsey Stollenberg, Sara Stonefield, Melessa Stonehouse, Jessica Storevik, Tara Storm, Debbie Storms, Destiney Storms, Shayna Storms, Katelyn Story, Cherie Stoterau, Sasha Stover, Megan Straatmeyer, Cheryl Strang, Arianna Street, Steven Streeter, Margaret Streier, Molly Strnad, Shelly Strohfus, Sonja Stroman, Rachel Stromseth, Ashley Strong, Kimberly Stroschein, Michelle Strout, Anna Struck, Carrie Struckman, Liberty Ann Strutz, Jessie Stubbe, Sandra Stuntebeck, Rachel Sturgeon, Leona Stygles, Carmen Sudbeck, Brianna Sudenga.

Nancy Suedmeier, Kimberley Sukstorf, Kelsey Sumners, Hannah Sumption, Julia Sundblad, Aryn Sundquist, Lisa Sundstrom, JaeShaun Sutton, Roger Svanda, Tracy Sveeggen, Shelby Svenson, Patricia Swain, Antoinette Swan, Erin Swan, Ellen Swank, Tammy Swanson, Kelly Swanson, Mari Swanson, Wynter Swanson, Judy Swartz, Alyssa Swearingen, Casey Swearingen, Siana Swedlund, Roxann Sweeter, Kathy Swenson, Barbara Swenson, Lori Swett, Sandra Sykora, Sheila Syverson, Michelle Syverson, Jenna

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Jacqueline Torkelson, Lynn Toupal, Susan Tousley, Brittney Townsend, Makenzie Trauffer, Macy Trautner, Mandi Trebbe, Janel Trego, Barbara Trhlin, Marie Trowbridge, Becky Trudeau, ZoAnn Trumbull, Sarah Trygstad, Bonnie Tschetter, Sydney Tschetter, Shauna Tunheim, Zenia Turcios, Christina Turgeon, Cheryl Turo, Tonia Turpin, Carmela Tuttle, Mary Tuttle, Marisa Twait, Marva Twohearts, Marlene Tyson, Lisa Uhre, Abby Uhrich, Sharon Ulrich, Melody Underberg, Ashley Uptagrafft, Kathryn Uthe, Hannah Valentine, Jenna Vallette, Cameron Van Beek, Kathleen Van Fossen, Rena Van Hofwegen, Jessica Van Roekel, Nicole Van Westen, Sarah VanBriesen, Sue Vande Kamp, Lisa Vandemore, Jenna VandenBos, Chelsea Vanderlinde, Amy Vanderpol, Samantha Vanderpol, Maria Vandewalle, Lundia Vankpana, Andrea VanOsdel, Heather Vanotterloo, Merry VanRoekel, Patricia Vanstralen, Rebecca Vargason, Amybeth Varilek, Karen Yams, Sarah Vavruska, Jeffrey Veen, Robin Veflin, Agnes Velasco, Emily Venner, Jessica VenOsdel, Jayne Verhey, Stephanie Vermaas, Dee Vermeulen, Linda Vermeulen, Mark Verner, Margaret Verville, Regina Vest, Lana Vevig, Dawn Vilhauer, Lezlie Vilhauer, Hazel Vilhauer, Eunice Vinales Escobar, Jeani Vincent, Cheri Vogt, Robert Voje, Jesse Volek, Karma Vollmer, Denise Volmer, Kailey VonEye, Carolyn Voog, Miranda Vore, Anna Voss, Peggy Vostad, Kasie Vostad, Susan Vowell, Anna Voyles, Teri Waagen, Patricia Wagner.

Kayla Wagner, Tiara Wagner, Deborah Wahl, Amanda Waite, Deanna Waldron, Lulu Waletzki, Tandy Walker, Lori Walker, Lisa Walker, Betty Walker, Kaitlyn Walker, Sean Wallace, Kendra Wallace, Elizabeth Walter, Jessica Walter, Maranda Walter, Rose Walters, Connie Jo Walters, Emily Walther, Karina Ward, Angela Ware, Darla Warkenthien, Kylee Warrick, Carol Warwick, Lanette Washenberger, KayeLynn Waterman, MarlaJean Waters, Diliam Watson, Ralph Webb, Rosemary Weber, Bethany Weber, Nicole Weber, Jessica Weber, Stephanie Weber, Jessica Webster, Vicki Weeldreyer, Cari Wegner, Angela Weidenbach, Brittany Weidmann, Lisa Weisbeck, Christine Weischedel, Mary Weisenburger, Rebecca Weismantel, Pamela Welch, Kathleen Welch-

Patterson, Susan Welder, Julia Welding, Gayla Wells, Joy Welsh, Mikayla Wendorff, Lindsey Wenger, Peggy Werdell, Danielle Werkmeister, Kayleen Werner, Traesha West Carlisle, Chantell Westberg, Emily Westfield, Sally Westphal, Danelle Wetsit, Hidie Wetzler, Stephanie Weyer, Jean Whalin, Donnel Wheeler, Tina Whipple, Jenny White, Nora White Eagle, Tiffany White Eyes, Bonnie Whitebull, Karen Whitford, Teri Whitham, Debra Whitlock, Shannon Whitney, Doreen Whitney, Andrea Whittington, Jennifer Wickherst, Kelly Wiehr, Alissa Wiest, Sandra Wilcox, Katelyn Wilde, Macie Wiles, Brenna Wilke, Julie Williams, Kimberly Williams, Phyllis Williams, Bernadette Willuweit, Geraldine Wilson.

Kerri Wilson, Georgia Wilson, Clarissa Wilson, Heather Wilson, David Winchell, Jessica Wingen, Sarah Winter, Donna Winters, Haley Winters, Julia Wipf, Michaela Wipf, Hunter Wirkus, Abby Wiskur, Patti Witkop, Judy Witkowski, Nancy Wittmeier, Mindy Wixon, Yvonne Wohlhueter, Sherry Woitzel, Tiffany Wojahn, Kathryn Wolf, Rick Wolf, Theresa Wolf, Muriah Wolf, Jeffrey Wolfe, Erin Wolfe, Sheila Wolff, Robert Wollman, Janet Wollman, Krista Wollman, MaClay Wollschlager, Whitney Wollschlager, Cynthia Wolter, Saynora Woltjer, Teresann Wong, Allen Wong, Debra Wood, Dawnita Wood, Alyssa Wood, Dalice Woodard, Makayla Woolledge, Barbara Worrall, Hannah Wozniak, Roselyn Wright, Kayla Wulf, Sarah Wulff, Lenaya Wurtz, Jessica Yada, Alecia Yaggie, Patricia Yanzick, Tracy Yeargan, Melissa Yecha, Crystal Yonker, Madison Young, Charlene Young-Cunningham, Grace Yount, Shannon Ysker, Danielle Yuhas, Karen Zacharias, Susan Zam, Jessica Zavala, Treva Zellers, Linda Zemlicka, Heather Zens, Tessa Zens, Amber Ziebart, Tamera Zimbelmann, Shannon Zimiga, Makayla Zirbel, Mellissa Zirpel, Rhonda Zomer, Marilyn Zomer, Colleen Zweep, Alison Aadahl, Briana Aadland, Juliana Aadland, Mackenzie Aalbu, Debra Aalderks, Rachel Aamold, Danielle Aanenson, Amber Aanenson, Emily Aanenson, Kierstin Aanenson, Colleen Aaron, Kelli Aarstad, Josey Aasby, Amanda Aasheim, Paula Abbas, Caitlin Abbink, and Karla Abbott.

Over the past year they have faced challenges most of us cannot even imagine. They have shown incredible resolve in the face of adversity. They have shown us all how to seek positivity and hope in each day as we weather the storms that come our way.

I couldn't be more thankful to represent the incredible people across South Dakota and all over the nation who work hard each day, not for fame, not for recognition or for money, but for the betterment of their communities. This is what makes America strong. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize these hard-working individuals.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF TOLEDO BEING NAMED THE TOP METROPOLITAN AREA

### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Toledo, Ohio, for being selected by

Site Selection Magazine as a Top Metropolitan Area in the United States. Toledo has shown what a strong community with the ambition to bring new investment to the area can do to create opportunities for the metropolitan area.

In order to be considered a metropolitan city for this particular award, the area must have a population ranging from 200,000 to 1 million. Toledo was selected for this award by Site Selection because of the new business investments brought to the metropolitan area. In 2020, Toledo had an estimated \$2.2 billion worth of projects that are expected to create 3,500 jobs.

Fostering a cooperative environment between businesses and local government has resulted in continued economic growth in the area. Toledo has brought millions in investments from businesses including Amazon, Stellantis, General Motors, Libbey Glass, and many more. The great work that Toledo has done despite the COVID-19 challenge is inspirational and shows the incredible work that is occurring in Northwest Ohio.

Congratulations to Toledo, on being named a Top Metropolitan Area.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE-  
SAVING  
ACTIONS OF PAUL, PHILLIP,  
PATRICK AND BENJAMIN  
MOTYLINSKI

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul, Phillip, Patrick, and Benjamin Motylinski of Dundee, Michigan. Their heroic efforts are worthy of commendation.

On Sunday, February 29th Paul Motylinski was driving down Custer Road in Monroe County, Michigan when he noticed someone had fallen through the ice of a nearby pond. He responded quickly by calling 911 and phoning his brothers who were at his mother's house nearby.

Together, the brothers got a hold of a small boat to help get the victim out of the water. As two of them used the boat to reach the victim, the other two brothers used a rope to pull them all back to shore.

The eighty-one year old man was taken to ProMedica Hospital in Monroe and is expected to recover fully thanks to the life-saving efforts of the Motylinski brothers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking the Motylinski brothers for their efforts that saved a life. We are grateful for Benjamin and Paul Motylinskis continued service to the Michigan community in their role as firefighters with the Dundee Township Fire Department and also to Phillip and Patrick Motylunski for rising to the occasion when lives were at stake. I am proud to commemorate their efforts here today.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LOTTIE MAE SMITH

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Lottie Mae Smith, a lover of children, an outstanding resident, and a true Christian spirit. Mrs. Smith was born in Lake Village, Arkansas, a few miles from where I was born, raised and grew up. Mrs. Smith like many others who grew up in rural Southeast, Arkansas migrated to Chicago, Illinois seeking a better life. Mrs. Smith confessed Christ at an early age in Lake Village where she was a member of the Woodson Temple Church. Once in Chicago she united with True Vine Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend C.L. Cavers where she served on the Mother's Board and the Pastor's Aide Ministry. She initially worked as a Cashier at Market Basket Super Market but because of her love for children she switched careers and worked as a Nanny for the rest of her career until retirement. Lottie was a loving wife, mother, and friend. She married the love of her life Chuck Smith in 1972 and they were inseparable. She leaves to mourn her daughters Loretta K. Brady, Jovanda Schafrik and Charlene Markham and Godson Larry Young, a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends.

HONORING LEONEL G. LOPEZ

### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Leonel G. Lopez for earning the prestigious Eagle Scout rank from the Boy Scouts of America. Only four percent of Boy Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, which requires dedication, service, leadership, and integrity.

A Brownsville native, Leo is the son of Leonel Lopez and Elia Cornejo Lopez. He is a proud member of Boy Scouts Troop 6 in Brownsville, TX and attends Veterans Memorial High School.

Leo has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities including camping, fishing, and hunting. Over the 12 years that Leo has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, church, and community. Most notably, Leo has contributed to his church community through his Eagle Scout project.

I applaud Leo's diligence to complete the lengthy review process that accompanies becoming an Eagle Scout. An important part of that process is completing a community service project. As a man of faith, Leo chose his community service project with guidance from his church leaders at Holy Family Catholic Church, where he has been an altar server since he was eight years old. Leo's project included cleaning and repainting every guideline, arrow, and handicap marker in his church's parking lot. Leo's initiative to remedy this problem demonstrates his leadership and his desire to contribute to his community.

I proudly commend Leo for his achievements with the Boy Scouts of America. He understands the importance of commitment and perseverance, and I know that he will continue to demonstrate these qualities in his future endeavors. I ask my colleagues to join me and my community in recognizing Leonel G. Lopez and wishing him continued success as an Eagle Scout and in completing his final year of high school.

#### RECOGNIZING SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING DAY

##### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Friday, March 26, 2021 as International Social Emotional Learning Day. On the last Friday of this month, partners from around the world will come together to showcase Social Emotional Learning, or SEL, and promote the practice in support of their schools, organizations, and communities.

SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation. SEL can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy, and just communities.

The competencies of SEL develop throughout our lives and are essential to success in our schools, workplaces, homes, and communities and allow individuals to contribute meaningfully to society. SEL can be taught and developed throughout childhood, adolescence, and beyond.

Supporting SEL is a wise use of public resources, because there can be long-term social and economic benefits to society from the implementation of evidence-based SEL. I have seen first-hand the benefits of this practice on students in my Congressional District with the Warren City Schools. I'd also like to recognize SEL40H for their great work on this issue in Ohio.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Friday, March 26th as International SEL Day.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding a missed vote. Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 84, On

Agreeing to the Rep. Wagner of Missouri Part B Amendment No. 40, I would have voted Yea.

#### HONORING BEVERLY ERSKINE AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

##### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Beverly Erskine, the program manager of the VA Central Iowa Health Care System Women's Veteran Program, as Iowan of the Week. Women are the fastest-growing population within the veteran community, and the Women's Veteran Program at the Central Iowa VA gives the heroines who served in uniform access to a full continuum of health care from primary care to mental health services.

With Beverly's leadership, the Women's Veteran Program provides critical services and resources that help our female veterans lead healthy lives, including: inpatient medical, surgical, and mental health care; physical rehabilitation; substance abuse treatment; long-term care and pharmacy services; and on-site mammogram services that offer 3-D imaging. Beverly and her team also arm program patients with helpful information and skills that they can use in their daily routines to better take care of themselves through the Whole Health Program. Mindfulness practices, yoga, and Tia Chi are just a few of the offerings in Whole Health to help female service members thrive. And to protect women veterans from potentially dangerous domestic situations, Beverly and her team provide careful, confidential screening conducted by trained Intimate Partner Violence colleagues.

One of the most special components of the Central Iowa VA Women's Veteran Program is the baby shower program Beverly and her colleagues facilitate each year. They invite women veterans who are pregnant, spouses of Veterans, Veterans who have adopted, and those who have had invitro fertilization to a special baby shower thrown in their honor. Attendees receive gifts, originally donated from partner organizations in Iowa, that help the expectant mothers prepare for the arrival of their newborns. The event is promoted during Women's Health Week and it offers the health care system to give back to those who have already sacrificed so much. As much as it makes the expectant moms feel special, it's truly a highlight for Beverly in her work.

Women's History Month is an opportunity to highlight some incredible work being done by women for women in communities across our country. Beverly is a shining example of how empowering female leaders creates opportunity for our nation to reach its full potential. I will never stop fighting in Congress to expand opportunities for women like Beverly and those who served our nation in uniform and am proud to support programs like the one Beverly leads for our women veterans. It is my honor to name Beverly Erskine our Iowan of the Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERNIE ROBERT YANKE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ernie Robert Yanke of Pewaukee, Wisconsin to celebrate his 100th Birthday. Mr. Yanke has lived a profoundly honorable life and lives up to the title of the Greatest Generation. His life's work deserves recognition and reflection as we mark this important milestone.

Mr. Yanke is a World War II veteran, father, husband, and beloved friend to many. He is best known for his tolerance, compassion, and optimism, although life was not always easy for him. Growing up, Mr. Yanke had very little; he was born to German immigrants in New Britain, Connecticut and moved from one crowded dwelling to another and often stood in long food lines for government issued cheese. Mr. Yanke often felt he escaped accidental death through sheer luck, but he credits the Army with saving his life.

During his time serving in the Army, Mr. Yanke led a decorated military career, rising to the rank of staff sergeant. He was part of the 76th Division in Patton's Third Army and was involved in the battle to rescue the besieged U.S. forces in the Battle of the Bulge. He recalls his hands freezing to the handle of a machine gun he manned atop a truck, firing all night to stave off the enemy. He was among the first troops to enter a concentration camp to provide relief to those held there.

While in the Army, Mr. Yanke first met his wife Eileen Quillin at a USO dance. The minute he saw her, he told her he was coming back after the war to marry her. He did exactly that. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Yanke raised a wonderful family of four children in Wisconsin.

Following his retirement, Mr. Yanke and Eileen spent the 25 years in Port Charlotte, FL, and traveled all over the world. Today, he has two daughters, four adult grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews as well as friends of all ages who he considers family.

As he celebrates his 100th birthday, Mr. Yanke is still a picture of health and demonstrating the core traits the Army taught him. Every day, you can find him doing his daily "1,000 reps" with his 1.5lb weights. I join Mr. Yanke's family in celebrating the 100th birthday of this remarkable man.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF LEGENDARY FOOTBALL COACH RICHARD "SPARKY" ADAMS

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a legendary football coach Richard "Sparky" Adams, Sr. Mr. Adams was born March 24, to Lee and Josephine Adams. The three-sport athlete graduated from Silver Creek High School before majoring in physical education at Brockport State. After securing his college degree during

the Korean War, "Sparky" enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves and was assigned to the USS *Randolph* as a signalman.

Rising to the rank of Ensign 3rd Class, his fourteen months on the USS *Randolph* came to an end in the summer of 1954. On returning home, Richard Adams began teaching physical education and coaching football as well as basketball at Monroe High School. In 1956, he started teaching physical education for the Kenmore public schools, started at Kenmore East in 1959, totaling 30 years of teaching in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District.

"Sparky" and Jean Rathmann met in 1955, married in 1956, and spent the next sixty-four years together until her passing last year. Their three children, Richard Jr., Penny Jo, and Amy Leigh, as always, took solace in their father's weirds: "if you get knocked down, pick yourself up and try to do better next time."

"Sparky" and Jean had connected immediately; not only did they marry after ten months, but she became a frequent confidant for his coaching schemes. With the assistance of his wife and the legend Jules Yakapovich, Coach Adams became a legend in his own right when he concluded his high school coaching in 1977 with four consecutive league championships.

His résumé also includes hundreds of college athletes and college football coaching offers. In fact, he would go on to coach Buffalo, Canisius, and eventually Buffalo State, where he paired with head coach Jerry Boyes to end his college coaching tenure like his high school career; the Bengals went deep into the playoffs and ensured "The Legend" went into retirement with a bang. He retired at age 70 but continued his tour of local football teams as an assistant coach at Benjamin Franklin Middle School alongside his best friend and coach Lou Reuter.

Coach Adams may have sparked many of his athletes' and students' careers, but the soon-to-be nonagenarian also molded their morals with his mentorship. The sailor from Silver Creek made such a mark that his name is now emblazoned on Kenmore East's football field—Coach Dick "Sparky" Adams Field will remind future athletes of the coach who cared more for character and confidence than championships.

Richard Towne Adams, Sr. went by many names—Ensign to the Navy; teacher to his students; coach to his athletes; husband to Jean; and father to three. But perhaps there's just one name that can encapsulate what he meant to everyone he met and to those who didn't get the pleasure: Happy 90th to "The Legend" Sparky Adams.

#### HONORING THE MIDWAY BARBER SHOP

#### HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Midway Barber Shop in Davidson County, North Carolina. After 50 years in business, Midway Barber Shop saw its last customers on March 13, 2021.

John Faust opened the Midway Barber Shop in May of 1970 and Davidson County

has been better off ever since. He had a tremendous impact on the lives of those who came into his shop. John was a man of character that put family and faith at the center of his life. One customer remarked, "He wasn't just my barber, he was my friend, my confidant, and my encourager."

To Kent Phillips, he was a dedicated friend and mentor. John hired Kent in 1978 not long after Kent finished high school and Kent has worked at the barber shop ever since. Phillips said of his boss, "In 38 years of working together, we never had a cross word," he said. "If you could not get along with that man, you needed to look at yourself in the mirror."

The Midway Barber Shop represented more than just a place to get a haircut: it was a community institution. In this business, people were more than just customers, they were known as friends and family.

Madam Speaker, the Midway Barber Shop was a gem of Davidson County. Our community is sad to see it go, but thankful for its years of service.

#### MSI STEM ACHIEVEMENT ACT

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the MSI STEM Achievement Act, which is cosponsored by Mr. WALTZ.

There is no denying the fact that our success as a nation is closely tied to our capacity to build and sustain a highly-skilled workforce, one that is equipped to take on the pressing challenges of the 21st century and to maintain our leadership in the global economy.

Today we are facing grave challenges on many fronts. We are battling a deadly pandemic and a severe economic downturn. We are racing to find sustainable sources of energy and working to mitigate the destructive impacts of climate change. We are fighting against attempts to undermine our democracy by threats both foreign and domestic. Our future prosperity and security are further threatened as competitors like China outpace our investment in scientific research and make rapid advances in critical technologies like advanced communications, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence.

To solve these problems, we need a cadre of trained scientists and engineers pushing the boundaries of what we know and what we can achieve. We need computer scientists and economists, biologists and mathematicians, engineers, chemists, and social scientists. So far, we have gotten by with a STEM workforce that does not represent the diversity of our nation. However, that is not a sustainable path forward.

Compared with their proportions in the U.S. population, members of racial and ethnic minority groups are significantly underrepresented among STEM degree earners. Less than 25 percent of all bachelor's degrees and 9 percent of doctorates in STEM are earned by underrepresented minority students. Despite representing 18 percent of the U.S. population, just 9 percent of bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physics are earned by Hispanics. In nearly all STEM fields, the propor-

tion of STEM bachelor's degrees earned by Black students has either stagnated or declined since 1996. Black students earned only 4.8 percent of bachelor's degrees in engineering in 1996. Today, that share is 3.9 percent. In the past two decades, representation of Black students among bachelor's degree earners in computer science has fallen from 9.9 percent to 8.7 percent.

The challenges we face today demand a dramatic expansion of the STEM workforce, one that is inclusive of talented students of all races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Fortunately, the nation's minority serving institutions (MSIs) have paved the way with proven approaches for the recruitment and retention of students from marginalized groups in STEM studies. The National Academy of Sciences released a report in 2018 highlighting the outsized contributions made by MSIs, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). For instance, HBCUs make up only 3 percent of the nation's colleges and universities, but graduate 28 percent of African American students earning bachelor's degrees in the physical sciences, 26 percent in mathematics, and 25 percent in the biological sciences. However, these institutions have been hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis and more investment and targeted outreach is needed to enable MSIs to fully realize their potential to contribute to the STEM workforce.

The bill directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to compile an inventory of competitive funding programs at Federal science agencies targeted to MSIs and recommend steps for agencies to increase the participation and the rate of success of MSIs in these programs. The National Science Foundation is directed to support research to better understand the contributions of MSIs, disseminate and scale up successful models, and identify effective approaches to building the STEM education and research capacity of under-resourced MSIs. The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is directed to issue policy guidance to Federal science agencies for outreach to raise awareness of funding opportunities and provide guidance on competing for funding. OSTP is also directed to develop a strategic plan to increase the capacity of MSIs to compete for federal research and STEM education funding.

Our STEM skills shortage is holding us back. As Chairwoman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology I am determined to change that situation. The way I see it, we have two possible futures: one in which we rise to the moment and leverage all of our human capital, and one in which our capacity for innovation and our standing in the world continue to erode. I know which future I want to see happen, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I regretably missed Roll Call vote 86 H.R. 1620 The

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 on March 17, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAVID AND DOROTHY WINEGAR

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of David and Dorothy Winegar, residents of Manchester, New Hampshire.

The Winegars have shared decades of life and love together, meeting in the Biology department at Hofstra University in the late 1960's and marrying on April 12, 1971. Since that date, their family has grown to include two loving daughters and several beloved pets.

Together, they've enjoyed many adventures, celebrated great achievements, and persevered through life's challenges. Avid explorers, the Winegars have embraced the arts and the world around them as they've traveled domestically and internationally and have seen over 25 Broadway productions. They instilled a love for the arts and a sense of curiosity in their daughters, sharing an admirable love for both culture and nature.

After raising their family on Long Island, New York, the Winegars chose to retire to Manchester, New Hampshire, where they have enthusiastically joined the community and made a home for themselves. Mr. Winegar retired from a career in international sales and marketing and now serves on the Manchester Palace Theater Advisory Board, while Mrs. Winegar retired from an illustrious career in education, teaching biology at both the high school and college levels. May their 50 years of love and commitment continue to serve as an inspiration to us all.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to wish Mr. and Mrs. Winegar a very happy 50th anniversary. I truly hope they enjoy a wonderful celebration with their family.

HONORING FORMER NEW YORK STATE SENATOR AND U.S. AMBASSADOR H. DOUGLAS BARCLAY FOR HIS LIFETIME DEDICATION TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF FELLOW NEW YORKERS AND ALL AMERICANS

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former New York State Senator and former U.S. Ambassador H. Douglas "Doug" Barclay for his lifetime achievements in both the private sector and public service.

A New Yorker through and through, Doug dedicated his entire life to the people of New York State. While he was born in New York City in 1932, his parents quickly returned to Pulaski, New York in Oswego County and Doug became the 7th generation to live on the

beloved family farm. Doug graduated from Yale University and Syracuse University College of Law, subsequently practicing at an esteemed Syracuse law firm, now Barclay Damon, LLP, as a named partner for over 40 years. He was elected to the New York State Senate in 1964 and served the people of Oswego County for 20 years, until 1984. Doug will always be remembered as a compassionate and caring representative for whom no constituent's concern was too small. He championed meaningful legislation reform around criminal justice, court reform, housing, and economic development matters. From his years in the U.S. Army to the New York State Senate to his appointment as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador during President George W. Bush's Administration, Doug's positive impact and exemplary leadership extended far beyond his cherished North Country home.

Doug was an extraordinary leader in his community and genuinely cared for those around him. He offered sage advice to candidates seeking office in New York State and became a renowned and well-respected figure in the Republican Party. He and his wife, Dee Dee, were committed to giving back locally by raising funds for county emergency services and by supporting families with children with disabilities. The Barclays fostered a strong sense of service within their own family and Doug's son, Will, has followed closely in his father's footsteps. Will was elected to the New York State Assembly in 2003 and is now serving as the Assembly Minority Leader. Ever the family man, Doug was an integral part of the North Country community and will be greatly missed. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize his remarkable leadership and life.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FINDLAY BEING NAMED THE TOP MICROPOLITAN COMMUNITY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Findlay, Ohio, for being named the Top Micropolitan Community in the United States for the seventh year in a row by Site Selection Magazine. Findlay has routinely shown what a strong community with a commitment to prosperity can do through implementation of their renowned "Findlay Formula." The city's focus on this formula continues to pay dividends and serves as an example to communities across the country.

In order to be considered a micropolitan city, the area must have a population ranging from 10,000 to 50,000. Over 550 of these cities were evaluated on business growth and economic sustainability. Findlay was able to secure this award for the seventh year in a row because of their focus on job creation, new construction, and capital investment that met Site Selection's criteria. In 2020, Findlay had an estimated \$150 million in capital investment, which contributed to the creation of 1,000 new jobs.

Fostering a cooperative environment between businesses and local government has resulted in continued economic growth in Find-

lay. Over the past seven years, Findlay has completed 200 projects and produced 6,000 new jobs through an estimated 1.5 billion dollars in investment. This success would not be possible without the partnership and cooperation between the City of Findlay, the Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development office, the Hancock County Commissioners, and the entire Findlay community.

Congratulations to Findlay for another year as the nation's top-ranked Micropolitan Community.

FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR KAZYKHANOV

**HON. STEVE CHABOT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Caucus, I rise today to bid farewell to Ambassador Erzhan Kazykhanov, who will be departing the United States at the end of this month and has faithfully served as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States during the past four years. He will be greatly missed by myself and all who have had the pleasure of working with him. He has consistently shown a great sense of enthusiasm for the job as well as a deep appreciation for the importance of the U.S.-Kazakhstan bilateral relationship.

Ambassador Kazykhanov is a career diplomat who began his career in the Foreign Ministry's Protocol-Political Division. He was Chief of the Division before being assigned his first international posting as first secretary/counselor at Kazakhstan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York City, from 1995 to 2000. He then returned home to Kazakhstan to serve as the Director of the Department of Multilateral Cooperation from 2000 to 2003. Following that posting, he returned to New York City as Kazakhstan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and as non-resident Ambassador to Cuba from 2003 to 2007.

Kazykhanov was then named Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and served as assistant to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In late 2008, he was posted to Austria to serve as Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to international organizations located in Vienna, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. He held that position through 2011 before returning to Kazakhstan to eventually become Minister of Foreign Affairs and an Assistant to the President.

Beginning in 2014, he served as Ambassador to the United Kingdom, and then presented his credentials as Ambassador to the United States in 2017. During his tenure in Washington, D.C. he has focused a great deal of time on expanding economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United States. He has travelled throughout the country meeting with multiple American companies to highlight opportunities for well-known U.S. brands and entities to establish operations in Kazakhstan as a gateway for new or expanded access to Central Asian markets.

Ambassador Kazykhanov has also played a crucial role in elevating the bilateral relationship between the United States and



Kazakhstan. This commitment to a continued cooperation across multiple platforms was cemented in the 2018 document, "United States and Kazakhstan: An Enhanced Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century," which outlines the goals and priorities of the bilateral agenda and sets a long-term vision to support future cooperation.

Ambassador Kazykhanov holds a bachelor's degree in Oriental Studies from Saint Petersburg State University and a Ph.D. in History from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. He has authored many articles focused on Kazakhstan's foreign policy, economic diplomacy, and multilateralism, among other topics. He speaks Russian, English and Arabic, and has received numerous awards and recognitions for his years of service.

Both he and his wife, Danara, who have two children, will be greatly missed by the Washington diplomatic corps and by all who know them in Washington, D.C. Along with my fellow Caucus co-chairs, we wish them both the greatest success and happiness as they return to Nur-Sultan. And as the Ambassador prepares for his new role as a senior advisor to the President, we hope that he will continue to emphasize the importance of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan.

#### CONGRATULATING THE RED RAIDERS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

#### HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wauwatosa East High School boys' basketball team for winning the Division 1 state championship earlier this month.

What started as a nail biter with the Red Raiders trailing the Papermakers 27–26 at the half, ended with a triumphant turnaround by the Wauwatosa East team on their way to a 62–44 victory. The Red Raiders shot an impressive 71 percent from the floor in the second half and finished at 55 percent for the game. This marks the Red Raiders fourth state championship win in the program's 17th tournament appearance and their first appearance in the tournament since 2008.

I applaud Coach Arndorfer and the entire team for a terrific season. This team overcame many obstacles in the face of the COVID–19 pandemic, but they persevered and brought home the win. Congratulations to the Red Raiders, or as they call themselves, the "band of brothers." This achievement is well-deserved.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. FRED KELLER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend a vote called on March 17, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 89.

#### OBITUARY: ARTHUR F. WALSH

#### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, Arthur "Art" Francis Walsh passed away early in the morning of February 24, 2021 in Salisbury, MD. Art was a good man, a loving husband, a loyal father, who loved his family and served his country and community. He had a great career. He enjoyed life and a good joke. He made people laugh; enjoyed golf, children, and pets; and had friendships that lasted his entire life. He loved and was loved. His final days were difficult, but he slipped into the arms of God peacefully in his sleep and we are thankful.

Art was born on April 13, 1942, to Marion Veronica Walsh (nee Kiernan), a mother of six, and Howard John Walsh Sr., a Deputy Sheriff and Detective with the New York Police Department, in the South Bronx neighborhood of New York, NY.

He often shared memories of his carefree days of his youth playing stickball and rambling around the neighborhood with his siblings and hundreds of other Irish Catholics kids, walking home for lunch from P.S. 35, watching baseball at nearby Yankee Stadium and vexing the clergy of St. Angela's School and Powell Memorial Academy.

Art enlisted in the Marine Corps, trained at Paris Island, SC, then served in the Marine barracks at 8th and I Streets in Washington, DC, where he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal and was selected for the Marching Twenty-Four unit, performing silent precision exhibition drills. As a member of the Marine Corps Honor Guard, Art served presidential support duty for President John F. Kennedy.

Art then completed six years in the Marine Reserves and joined the New York Telephone Company, where he built a 30-year career, rising from an installer of rotary phones to a regional manager overseeing fiber optic cable and high-speed internet.

With his first wife, Barbara, Art enjoyed many nights bowling, gathering with friends and having fun throughout McLean Avenue in Yonkers and all over Manhattan. Together, they moved to the mountains of Ringwood, NJ. He participated in that community as a member of the Knights of Columbus, local Republican politics, the Ringwood Board of Health and St. Catherine's Parish. His home and pool offered summers away from the city for his sister-in-law Georgann, nieces Stephanie and Donna and nearly nephew Eddie. He loved people and wanted to help improve their quality of life. Art's large family circle included step-nieces, ex-sister-in-laws, children's friends, and friends held as family.

Art was a wonderful father to Brian and Andrea and dearly loved sister-in-law Georgann. He played, explored the woods and laughed. He hosted swim lessons, went to little league games and daddy-daughter dances. He made it possible for each, plus six step-grandchildren, to graduate college, pursue successful careers and begin families of their own. He taught us to help others, to apply our capable hands to any problem we faced, to work hard, listen, look others in the eye and give respect to all the people you encounter in this world.

Art was blessed to find great happiness in retirement with his wife Carole Benner Walsh, moving to the Eastern Shore of MD, where they enjoyed 20 years of fun. Together, Art and Carole traveled, played golf and celebrated with friends and enjoyed the beaches of Maryland, their dog Charlie, and life as grandparents to their expanded family.

Many thanks go to the care providers at Lakeside at Mallard Landing for their kindness, care and loyalty throughout the last two difficult years.

So, raise a glass, say a prayer and give thanks to a good man, a Marine, a son, a brother, a father, a husband, a grandfather, a friend . . . to a life well lived . . . and, to quote Art, "keep smilin".

Art is survived by his wife Carole Benner Walsh; children Brian O. Walsh (and Natasha) and Andrea Walsh Silva (and Nicholas); his sister-in-law Georgann Russo, step-children Jeffrey D. Benner (and Rochelle) and Cheryl Oursler (and George), and his siblings Howard Jr., Virginia, and Maureen Walsh and was predeceased by siblings Patrick and Loraine. Numerous multigenerational nieces and nephews; and his four grandchildren and six step-grandchildren that brought him great joy will sadly miss him.

#### REMEMBERING RAYMOND J. KAPPER

#### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Raymond J. Kapper, who passed away at his Florida home on March 14, 2021 at the age of 84.

Ray Kapper dedicated his professional career to serving his community. Whether serving the citizens of the City of Akron as an elected official or young men and women as a coach and administrator, he put the greater good above his own aspirations.

He began his professional career as the athletic director for the Catholic Youth Organization and as head football coach at St. Mary's High School before moving on to the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company where he served as employee activities director. Mr. Kapper was elected to serve the City of Akron first as a ward councilman and then as councilman at-large. He ultimately was elected by his peers to serve as the president of the council.

In 1984, Ray was appointed to serve as service director. In that position he oversaw the City of Akron's Engineering Bureau, the Public Works Bureau, the Sewer Bureau, and the Water Bureau. Mr. Kapper retired from the City of Akron in 1992.

In retirement, Ray continued to work in the community and support the causes that were most important to him. He was especially proud of his work with The First Tee of Akron, a youth mentoring program that provides educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf. He most enjoyed time spent with family and friends and cheering on his beloved New York Yankees.

Mr. Kapper is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 63 years, Barbara; his children,



David (Jennifer) Kapper, Deborah (Kelly) Dodson, Jon (Nancy) Kapper, and Christopher (Collen) Kapper; grandchildren, Abbie, Alex, Charlie, Hannah, Ben, Frances, Nicole, and Kevin; great grandchild Violet; and brothers Dick, Tom, and Glenn. He was preceded in death by his parents Raymond and Marcine, and his grandson, Andrew.

I cannot thank Ray enough for his dedicated service to the City of Akron and Summit County. It is a great honor to represent the people of Akron in this chamber, and Mr. Kapper deeply exemplified the spirit of the city. My deepest condolences go out to his family and to all whose lives were touched by Ray.

## REMOVING THE DEADLINE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 17, 2021*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I rise in support of equality and the principle that our Constitution was designed, not to shore up the dominance of the historically powerful, but to ensure the rights of all and to foster a society in which each of us is free to shape our future based on our abilities. The resolution today seeks to remove the deadline Congress put in place for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. While ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment is imperative to enshrine equal rights for women, I do not believe it is necessary to strike the deadline for ratification. However, by voting on this legislation, we may imply that it is necessary for Congress to lift a self-imposed deadline in order for the ratification to be effective. I do not prescribe to this view.

Congressional authority to propose Amendments to the Constitution and the mode of ratification is outlined in Article V of the Constitution. Article V requires two-thirds of the House and Senate to propose an amendment. Congress can choose ratification through three-fourths of the state legislatures or state ratifying conventions. Once the amendment is proposed to the states, there is no Constitutionally imposed time limit on the ratification process. Article V of the Constitution is silent with regard to when a state must consider and ratify an amendment. In fact, the ratification process for the 27th Amendment took more than two hundred years.

Historically, Congress has ratified amendments without specific time limitations. The first amendment to contain a time limit was the 18th Amendment, which established the prohibition of alcohol. The text of the 18th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd Amendments each contained language limiting the time frame for ratification. In contrast, the text of the Equal Rights Amendment ratified by the states does not contain a time limit. It is the proposing clause sent to the states for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment which contains a seven-year time limitation. Notwithstanding a lower district court ruling to the contrary, the language of a proposing clause is not legally binding. The ratification process of the Equal Rights Amendment was properly before the states and was reasonable and sufficiently

contemporaneous. Therefore, having been ratified by Virginia and a sufficient number of other states pursuant to Article V, the ERA, in my judgement, has become part of the Constitution.

This resolution is unlikely to add to the argument that the ERA has been ratified, and, because it implies that the deadline needs to be removed, it may strengthen arguments against because if the deadline is binding, then passage of this resolution in the House, without passage in the Senate, certainly does not cure that defect. And even with Senate concurrence, the effect of the resolution on state ratifications between the deadline and the removal of the deadline is unclear. So the passage of the resolution in the House and Senate will at best add confusion to the debate and at worst will strengthen arguments against the conclusion that the ERA has been ratified. Nevertheless, forced with a vote, it makes more sense to vote in favor than to oppose the resolution.

Regardless of the outcome of this resolution on the ERA itself, the fight for equality must continue. Women still face hurdles in the pathways to success. On average, women still earn less than men for the same job functions. Pregnant women often lack basic protections and reasonable accommodation in the workplace. Perhaps most concerning of all, violence against women is still widespread and undermines the educational and social potential of women and young children in this country.

I am proud to have worked with my Democratic colleagues in the House to pass legislation to remedy these inequalities. The House recently passed the Protect the Right to Organize Act (H.R. 842) which protects workers who are trying to form a union. While in most of America, women earn less than men, women and men working under a union contract receive equal pay for equal work. We have worked to fill the gaps in the patchwork of existing laws governing how and when workers take time off to care for themselves and their families. Expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover more working parents and low wage workers who are currently excluded from leave policies is a top priority.

There are other initiatives being considered to address inequities. Nearly two thirds of minimum wage workers in the United States are women. The Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 603) will raise the income levels of the most economically insecure households and would be a step in the right direction towards pay equity. The Pregnant Worker's Fairness Act (H.R. 1065) is important legislation that will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant women in the workforce. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1620) which expands protections and provides critical funding for victim services, law enforcement training, and data collection, is now pending in Congress.

However, even if all this legislation were to become law, it would not be the same as amending the Constitution to guarantee women equal rights. Discrimination in the workplace, violence in the home, and institutional barriers require systemic legal and cultural change. Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment provides an additional legal tool for combatting discrimination on the basis of sex.

We will continue the fight for equality and work towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

**HERMAN ROBERTS—BLACK BUSINESSMAN, CIVIC LEADER, CHICAGO ICON**

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Chicago's brightest lights who recently passed away at the age of 97, Mr. Herman Roberts. The Chicago Sun-Times wrote that Herman Roberts came to Chicago with nothing during the "Great Migration and ended up a tycoon". At one time or another he owned 35 taxis, eight motels, a nightclub, which swung with some of the world's greatest stars, a bowling alley, a skating rink, and oil wells on a 2000-acre ranch in Oklahoma. Mr. Roberts grew up as one of six children in Beggs, Oklahoma, around his age of about 12 his family moved to Chicago where he went to Burke Elementary and Englewood High School on the southside of the city. After high school he went into the taxicab business and built a fleet in the Black Community when and where white owned cabs usually would not transport Black patrons. In the early 1950's he opened his first lounge, the Lucky Spot and a few years later The Roberts Show Lounge in a garage building where he had once housed his taxicabs. Mr. Roberts was a genius at booking and showmanship. Stars like Nina Simone, Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughan, Sammy Davis Jr., Jackie Wilson, Sam Cooke, Red Foxx, Moms Mabley, Dick Gregory and others were regular features. In 1960, he built his first motel on 63rd Street, then six more. In 1974, he installed a removable stage in the parking lot and brought in stars like Count Basie, Billy Eckstine, Ramsey Lewis, Della Reese and Nipsey Russell to name a few. Mr. Roberts did not only spend time looking after his business in Chicago; but also spent time at the ranch in Oklahoma. At its peak his ranch had several oil wells, 100 horses, pigs, French breed of cattle and peacocks. In addition to everything else that Mr. Roberts was and did, the Roberts Motel 500 Room was a major launching pad for the official kick off of The Harold Washington Campaign for Mayor which changed Chicago Politics forever. I say congratulations to Mr. Herman Roberts on all his outstanding achievements and thanks to his children and grandchildren for keeping his legacy and spirit alive, especially to his daughter Sharla Roberts, Director of Procurement Diversity at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on Roll Call No. 84 on March 17, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 84.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOUIE GOHMERT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, this morning I was notified of a death in my family for which I had been legally designated to make all of the arrangements and decisions. It came unexpectedly and I have scrambled to get back to Texas on the first accessible plane. For this reason, I am missing the votes today, and will miss the votes tomorrow.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHRIS JACOBS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, on March 17, 2021 I missed the vote on H.R. 1652, the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 89.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, during the vote on final passage of H.R. 1620—the Violence Against Women Act, I was detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 86.

CONGRATULATING THE PIRATES  
BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM**HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pewaukee Pirates High

School boys' basketball team for winning the Division 2 state championship earlier this month.

In the state championship game, the Pirates played incredibly well, never once trailing in the contest as they raced out of the gate with an eight-point lead. They hit shot after shot as they built on their lead. The Pirates closed the first half with an impressive 12–0 run on their way to a 54–37 win. This remarkable victory is the Pewaukee team's first state championship win and their second appearance in the tournament.

I applaud Coach Burkemper and the entire team for their first state championship title. This team has overcome many obstacles in the face of the COVID–19 pandemic, but they persevered and brought home impressive hardware to show for it. Congratulations to the Pirates for their hard work all season. This achievement is well-deserved.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSIDER  
TEACHERS ACT OF 2021**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Consider Teachers Act of 2021, which would improve the service obligation verification process for Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program recipients. The Senate passed a version of this bill last Congress, and Senators MIKE BRAUN and KYRSTEN SINEMA are introducing the Consider Teachers Act of 2021 today.

The TEACH Grant Program was created by the federal government in 2007 to attract the best and brightest to the teaching profession in underserved communities. The TEACH Grant Program provides up to \$4,000 a year in grants to students who agree to serve for at least four years as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves low-income families. The obligation to teach four years must be completed within an eight-year period. Those who do not fulfill their service requirement but have been given grants have their grants converted into Federal Direct Un-

subsidized Stafford Loans, which must be paid back with interest. These loans cannot revert to grants.

According to the Office of Management and Budget, 66 percent of the grants are converted into loans. Though 21,000 recipients have completed the program without conversion, 94,000 recipients have had their grants converted to loans. Those conversions are often triggered by small paperwork issues, such as submitting the annual form one day late or missing a date or signature.

In 2018, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) released a reconsideration process for recipients who had their grants converted into loans but had either fulfilled, or could still fulfill, their teaching requirements. The Department also turned back the clock to allow teachers who left the TEACH Grant Program once their grants were converted to give them more time to complete their requirements. These changes allowed the Department to lift the debt of 2,300 recipients.

This bill would codify this reconsideration process and mandate that the Department continue to implement it, creating a safeguard from changes in Department leadership. This bill would also outline yearly deadlines and notification requirements to rectify some of the TEACH Grant Program's previous administrative mishaps. Furthermore, with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, many recipients have had trouble finding qualifying work. This bill would create a grace period for these individuals by extending the fulfillment period by three years for anyone who was fulfilling their obligations when the coronavirus pandemic began.

This past year has given us all a hard lesson in the invaluable service that teachers and educators provide to our society. As many young students have turned to homeschooling and remote learning, we have all come to appreciate the hard work and incredible talent of our teachers, who foster the mental, physical and emotional growth of our children every day. This bill ensures that that pipeline of talent for the teaching profession remains strong and that we do not unduly burden TEACH Program recipients, who have dedicated themselves to serving our most vulnerable communities.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.